

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

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P R 121615Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4686

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14135

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES

REF: (A) USMISSION NATO 4942

(B) USMISSION NATO 4917

(C) THE HAGUE 4558

(D) THE HAGUE 4258

(E) LONDON 13408

(F) LONDON 13133

1. WE REVIEWED ISSUE OF NETHERLANDS FORCE REDUCTIONS
AGAIN SEPTEMBER 12 WITH ALISTAIR HUNTER, ACTING HEAD
WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT (FCO). HUNTER SAID
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THAT OFFICIAL VIEW OF FCO, BASED ON ALL EVIDENCE AVAIL-

ABLE TO HMG, IS THAT THERE IS NO HOPE OF GETTING DUTCH TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS ON PROPOSED CUTS. THIS CONCLUSION REFLECTING ASSESSMENT OF UK EMBASSY THE HAGUE, WILL BE PASSED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN THIS WEEKEND ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT UK TAKE TOUGH POSITION AT SEPTEMBER 17 DPC MEETING IN ORDER TO GIVE DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING AMMUNITION TO AVOID FURTHER REDUCTIONS.

2. WE DOUBT UTILITY OF ANOTHER DEMARCHE IN LONDON (REF B) AS LONG AS BRITISH ARE CONVINCED ALLIANCE IS FACING FAIT ACCOMPLI, BUT OF COURSE ARE WILLING TO TRY. UK EMBASSY THE HAGUE SEEMS NOT TO BE RECEIVING DUTCH SIGNALS LIKE THOSE BEING GIVEN BY VAN EEKELEN AND DUYVERMAN (REFTELS C AND D). IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF EMBASSY THE HAGUE SHARED WITH THE BRITISH THERE OUR VIEW THAT THE GAME MAY NOT BE LOST, THAT A BRITISH BILATERAL APPROACH WOULD BE IMPORTANT AND PERHAPS DECISIVE, AND THAT INDEED THE DUTCH ARE EXPECTING SUCH A DEMARCHE. IT APPEARS THAT CONVINCING THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN THE NETHERLANDS THAT DUTCH ANNOUNCEMENT IN NATO MAY NOT BE FINAL WORD IS PROBABLY NECESSARY PREREQUISITE FOR REVERSAL OF HMG DECISION HERE.

RICHARDSON

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